

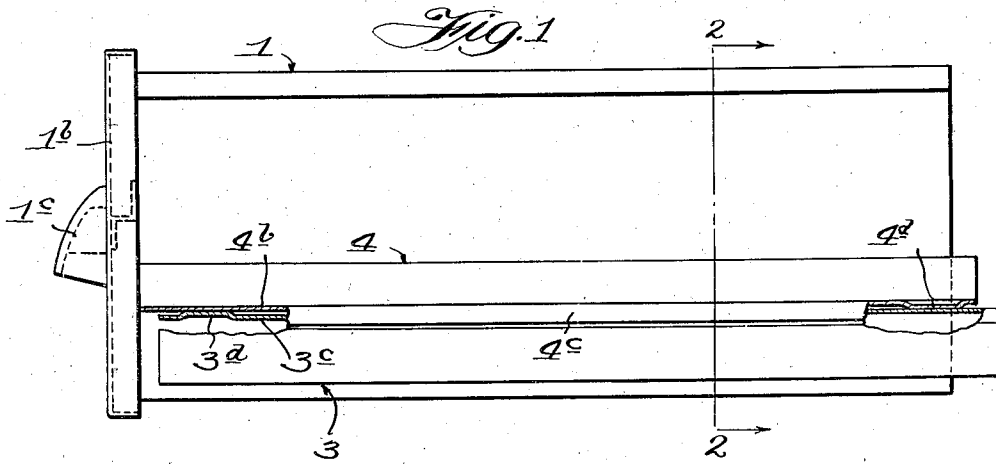
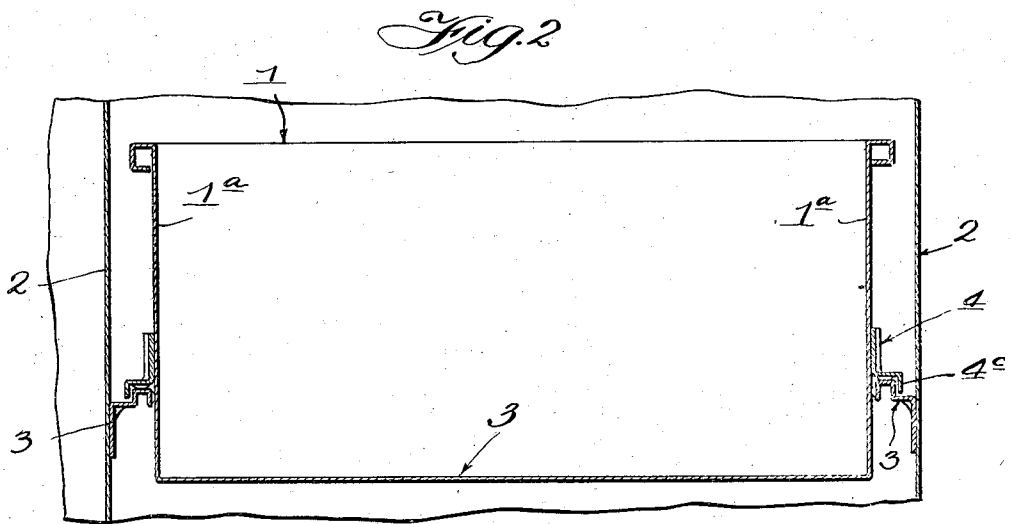
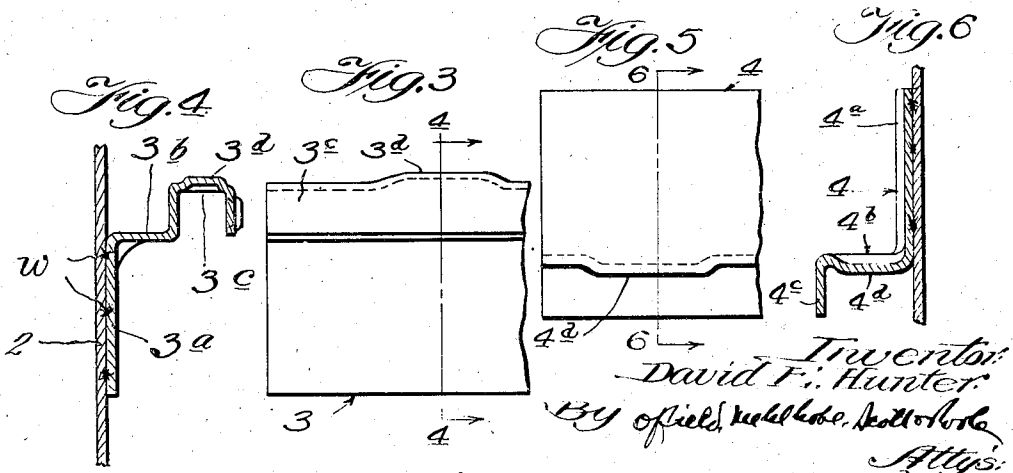
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D. E. HUNTER

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METAL DESK CONSTRUCTION

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DAVID E. HUNTER, OF MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO THE SHAW-WALKER COMPANY, OF MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN, A CORPORATION OF MICHIGAN

## METAL DESK CONSTRUCTION

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This invention relates to improvements in metallic desk construction, and more particularly to an improved mounting for the drawers of such desks, whereby smooth and easy sliding movement of the drawers may be maintained, and periodic lubrication may be resorted to without danger of soiling the person or clothing by contact with the drawer when open.

10 The object of the invention is to provide a type of track member which will permit of lubricating the tracks and yet protect and conceal them in such manner as to prevent the lubricated surfaces from being exposed when the drawer is opened.

The features embodying the invention are not necessarily limited to metal drawers or to metallic furniture, although particularly suited thereto.

20 Referring to the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of one of the drawers of a desk with portions of the track members broken away.

25 Figure 2 is a view in cross section through the drawer and supporting walls as taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged view in elevation of a section of a stationary track member.

30 Figure 4 is a view in cross section through the stationary track member as taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a view in side elevation of the sliding track member on the drawer, and

35 Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of the track member taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5.

As is the common practice in desk construction, a drawer 1 is mounted within a drawer compartment represented by vertical side walls 2, 2, as for instance of a pedestal. In this disclosure both the drawer and the walls 2, 2 are of sheet metal, the former comprising an open receptacle with vertical side walls 1a, 1a and a front wall 1b, having a suitable handle or pull 1c. The drawer is mounted 45 for endwise sliding movement to and from closed position in the desk on pairs of track members 3 and 4 on opposite sides, one member 3 of each pair being stationary and fixed to the walls 2, and the other 4 being mounted on and sliding with the drawer.

The fixed track members 3, 3 are strips of sheet metal stamped or pressed to the cross-sectional shape shown in Figure 4, namely, a vertical web 3a which bears flatwise against the side wall 2, and preferably spot-welded thereto as at *w*, a narrow web 3b along the upper edge of the vertical web and bent inwardly at right angles thereto and an inverted U-shaped rail 3c along the edge of the narrow web 3b. Near the forward end of each fixed track member an elongated hump 3d is pressed upwardly from the rail portion 3c and forms the contact surface for the track member on the drawer as shown in Figure 3.

The track members 4 on the drawer are likewise formed from strips of sheet metal stamped into the sectional contour or shape shown in Figure 6, namely, each consisting of a vertical web 4a which is spot-welded to the side wall 1a of the drawer as at *w*, a web 4b bent at right angles along the lower edge of the vertical web and a short downwardly depending flange 4c along the outer edge of the web 4b. Near the rear end of these track members the transverse webs 4b which form the downwardly facing track surfaces are provided with a similar hump or elongated depressed surface 4d which are adapted to slide upon the track surfaces of the fixed track members 3.

When the drawer is mounted in the desk, the track members 3 and 4 contact and slide upon each other on the humps 3d and 4d only, with the two parallel webs 3c and 4b spaced a short distance apart as clearly shown in Figure 1, that is, the hump 3d at the forward end of the stationary track member 3 supporting the track member 4 on the drawer while the hump 4d at the rear end of the drawer track member 4 bears upon fixed track member. And finally the depending flange 4c of the drawer track member extends outwardly beyond and downwardly along the side of the invert U-shaped rail of the fixed track member, so that when the drawers are withdrawn, the track surfaces which may have a film of oil thereon are completely covered and thus protect the hands or clothing from being soiled by contact with the lubricated track surfaces or other surfaces that

might be coated with lubricant spreading from the track surfaces, when the drawers are pulled out into open position. Ordinarily a few drops of oil applied to the track surfaces are sufficient lubrication for a long period, but should they be oiled too frequently there would be the possibility of an excess forming on surfaces which left exposed would create an uncleanly condition.

10 Having set forth a preferred embodiment of my invention, I claim:

1. In a drawer construction for desks, the combination with a drawer compartment of pairs of horizontal track members for slidably supporting a drawer, each pair consisting of a fixed track member on a vertical wall of said compartment and a movable track member on the side of said drawer, and having overlapping transverse track flanges spaced apart vertically by the provision of elevated portions at opposite ends of said track flanges, one of each pair of track members having an outwardly disposed depending web enclosing said track surfaces.

2. In a drawer construction for metal desks, the combination with a drawer compartment of pairs of horizontal track members for slidably supporting a drawer thereon, each pair consisting of a fixed track member having a vertical web adapted to fasten flatwise against the vertical wall of said compartment and an inverted U-shaped rail projecting toward said drawer, a movable track member fixed to the side of said drawer and having a transverse track flange overlying and having sliding contact with said rail, and a depending web along its outermost edge extending over and concealing the rail of said fixed track member.

3. In a drawer construction for metal desks, the combination with a drawer compartment of pairs of horizontal sheet metal track members for slidably supporting said drawer, each pair consisting of a fixed track member having a vertical web adapted to be welded to the vertical wall of said compartment, an inverted U-shaped rail projecting inwardly along its upper edge provided with a raised hump in the upwardly facing track surface near one end thereof, a movable track member on the side of said drawer having a vertical web welded to the drawer, a transverse flange overlying said rail and having a depressed hump adjacent the opposite end of said track flange, and a web along its outer edge extending downwardly beyond the rail of said fixed track member whereby said tracks slide on said humps at oppositely disposed ends and said track surfaces are concealed by said depending web of said movable track member.

Signed at Muskegon, Mich., this 26th day of February 1931.

DAVID E. HUNTER.